

West Uvean language

This article deals with "West Uvean" or "Fagauvea", a language of New Caledonia. For "East Uvean" or "Fakauvea", the language of Wallis Island (Uvea), see Wallisian language.

West Uvean (also **Uvean** or **Faga Ouvéa**; *Fagauvea* in the vernacular) is a Polynesian outlier language spoken on the island of Ouvéa, in the Loyalty island group of New Caledonia, and in the capital of Nouméa. It has long been in contact with Iaai, the Southern Oceanic language also spoken on the same island. Consequently, four vowels have been added, and the syllable structure has become complex, allowing for final consonants.^{[3]:534}

West Uvea is the only Polynesian language to use a quinary numeral system. It is probably the original decimal Polynesian people influenced by the nearby Iaai people who used a quinary numeral system, and changed from a decimal system to a quinary one. There are two sets of numerals from 11 to 20, the second way was the archaic form. The word 'tupu' means 'sum', 'teanua' in 'tahi a teanua' means 'human body', 'nea' in 'tahi enea' means 'man'. Nowadays, the West Uvea or Faga Uvea people use French or Iaai numeral systems more frequently.

Name

The speakers designate their language by the name **Fagauvea**, which is also the name used in French. The name *West Uvean* sometimes used in English is meant to distinguish the language from the related *East Uvean* or Wallisian, spoken on Wallis Island (' Uvea).

References

1.

West Uvean (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/uv> e/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2.

Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "West Uvean" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/west2516>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3.

Button, Tom; Tryon, Darell T. (1994). *Language contact and change in the Austronesian world*. Mouton de Gruyter.

West Uvean	
Fagauvea	
Native to	New Caledonia
Region	Ouvéa
Native speakers	2,200 (2009 census) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Futunic?<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emaic<ul style="list-style-type: none">West Uvean
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	uve
Glottolog	west2516 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/west2516) ^[2]

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